

Message Text

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46

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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P R 051545Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8262

INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

US MISSION BERLIN 555

AMEMBASSY BONN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 1133

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OCLR, BTRN, BU, WB

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - FLIGHT CLEARANCE OVER BULGARIA FOR PAA CHARTER
 PLANE; BULGARIAN ADHERENCE TO CHICAGO CONVENTION

REF: SOFIA 1122; B. STATE 01888

1. AS INDICATED REFTTEL A, EMBASSY PRESENTED US POSITION TO DEPUTY CHIEF OF CONSULAR SECTION MFA ZHELENSKI. WHEN INFORMED THAT REFUSAL OF OVERFLIGHT PRIVILEGES TO PAA CHARTER FLIGHT OUT OF TEMPELHOF APPEARED TO US TO BE VIOLATION OF CHICAGO CONVENTION, HE REPLIED THAT IT QTE MIGHT APPEAR TO BE A VIOLATION TO BULGARIANS, TOO UNQTE BUT ADDED THAT CHICAGO CONVENTION WRITTEN IN 1944 BEFORE BERLIN SITUATION AROSE AND FRANKLY STATED BULGARIA'S DECISION IS POLITICAL WHICH NOT BEING RECONSIDERED.

2. ACCORDING TO ZHELENSKI, BULGARIA ALONG WITH ITS GDR AND OTHER ALLIES FEELS THAT THE THREE AIR CORRIDORS LEADING TO BERLIN ARE SOLELY FOR THE USE OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND NOT CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. CONSEQUENTLY ANY CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT FLYING DIRECTLY TO OR FROM BERLIN WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REFUSED OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE. IF THE PLANE WERE TO MAKE AN INTERMEDIATE STOP, HOWEVER, (IN MUNICH, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR EXAMPLE), PERMISSION FOR OVERFLIGHT COULD BE

GRANTED AND BULGARIA WOULD NOTE THAT INTERMEDIATE STTC RATHER THAN BERLIN IN ITS RECORDS. ZHELENSKI ALSO EXPLAINED THAT WEST BERLIN IS THE ONLY POINT OF ORIGIN OR DESTINATION IN THE WORLD FOR WHICH CIVILIAN OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES ARE REFUSED.

3. AS AN EXAMPLE OF BULGARIA'S FIRM STAND ON THIS ISSUE HE CITED THE CASE OF MODERN AIR CHARTER PLANE WHICH WAS PROPOSED TO FLY TOURISTS FROM WEST BERLIN TO VARNA TWO YEARS AGO. DESPITE SEVERE PRESSURE FROM FRG AND LOSS OF EARNING FOR BULGARIA, IT WAS REFUSED.
HERZ

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